

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3695

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR INS PINT IN SK

SUBJECT: GOI STATEMENT ON SIKKIM

FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT ON UNREST IN SIKKIM AND ACTIONS TAKEN
BY GOI MADE TO LOK SABHA ON APRIL 9 BY DEPUTY FOREIGN
MINISTER SURENDRA PAL SINGH:

" AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTIONS IN SIKKIM RECENTLY, THE TENSION
HAD AGGRAVATED AS THERE WERE CHARGES OF MALPRACTICES, CORRUPTION
AND RIGGING UP OF ELECTIONS ON THE PART OF SIKKIM DARBAR.

" AS A RESULT, POLARIZATION DEVELOPED BETWEEN THE MAHARAJA
OF SIKKIM ON THE ONE SIDE AND THE POPULARLY ELECTED POLITICAL
LEADERS AND THE MASSES ON THE OTHER. THE DARBAR TOOK STERN
MEASURES AND ARRESTED THE PRESIDENT OF THE SIKKIM JANTA CONGRESS,
SHRI K. C. PRADHAN ON THE 27 TH MARCH. THEN FOLLOWED THE EXCESSES
OF THE POLICE WHICH RESULTED IN A LARGE NUMBER OF CASUALTIES AND
MASS UPSURGE AGAINST THE SIKKIM DARBAR.

" THEREAFTER THERE WERE LARGE SCALE DEMONSTRATIONS ALL OVER
SIKKIM. TWENTY THOUSAND DEMONSTRATORS COLLECTED IN GANGTOK
DEMANDING DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS AND DEMONSTRATING AGAINST THE CHOGYAL
REGIME. POLICE STATIONS OF SEVERAL IMPORTANT TOWNS SUCH AS RANGPO,
RHENOCK, MELLI, NAMCHI, GEYZING AND SINGTAM WERE ALSO TAKEN
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OVER BY THE POPULAR LEADERS AND THE POPULATION UNDER THEIR GUIDANCE.

" AS THE SITUATION IN SIKKIM WENT OUT OF CHOGYAL' S CONTROL DESPITE STRONG MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE SIKKIM DARBAR, THE CHOGYAL FIRST MADE A FORMAL REQUEST TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA FOR ITS POLICE STATIONS IN RANGPO, RHENOCK AND MELLI TO BE MANNED BY THE INDIAN ARMY AND THEN TO ENTRUST THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR LAW AND ORDER IN GANGTOK ITSELF TO THE INDIAN ARMY. OUR ACCEPTANCE OF THESE REQUESTS WAS WIDELY ACCLAIMED BY THE MASSES OF SIKKIM. FINALLY, WITH THE COMPLETE BREAK DOWN OF LAW AND ORDER ALL OVER SIKKIM, THE CHOGYAL WROTE TO US ON THE 8 TH OF APRIL REQUESTING US TO TAKE OVER THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE WHOLE OF SIKKIM. HE ALSO ASKED US FOR THE SERVICES OF A SENIOR OFFICER OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO BE APPOINTED AS HEAD OF SIKKIM' S ADMINISTRATION. SIMULTANEOUSLY, THERE WERE REPEATED DEMANDS FROM THE POPULAR LEADERS AND THE LARGE MASSES OF SIKKIM FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO TAKE OVER THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE STATE. IN RESPONSE, THEREFORE, TO THE REQUEST OF THE CHOGYAL AND THE DEMAND OF THE PEOPLE OF SIKKIM, THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HAVE TAKEN OVER THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE STATE AND HAVE ALSO DEPUTED A SENIOR OFFICER TO FUNCTION AS HEAD OF SIKKIM' S ADMINISTRATION.

" THE POPULAR AND ELECTED LEADERS OF ALL THE PARTIES IN SIKKIM HAD ALSO ASKED US TO ENSURE THE STABILITY, SECURITY AND INTEGRITY OF SIKKIM. THEY HAVE WELCOMED OUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MAINTAINING LAW AND ORDER AND RUNNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF SIKKIM.

" WE WILL NOW MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF SIKKIM ARE SECURED AND SAFEGUARDED AND THAT SIKKIM MARCHES ON THE ROAD TO POLITICAL STABILITY AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY. MOYNIHAN

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